Winston H. Hickox Secretary for Environmental Protection 7

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Financial Assistance

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption.

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MAR 2 5 2003

To: UST Cleanup Fund Claimants/Consultants

SUSPENSION OF COST PREAPPROVAL REVIEW

In order to process as many reimbursement requests as possible before the end of the fiscal year, the Fund has temporarily suspended review of cost pre-approval requests. We anticipate that this reduction in pre-approval services will be offset by an improvement in our ability to timely process reimbursement requests. Please note that this does not relieve you from:

- 1. The responsibility to complete required corrective action work within the timeframe specified by the regulatory agency.
- 2. The requirement that regulatory approval be obtained prior to implementing corrective action work.
- 3. The requirement for corrective action costs to be necessary and reasonable. We recommend that you use the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund Cost Guidelines to evaluate the reasonableness of costs for specific corrective actions. A copy of the Cost Guidelines may be downloaded from our website at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/cwphome/ustcf/technicalformsinfo.htm

We apologize for the inconvenience, and we will post a notice on our website when we are able to resume review of cost pre-approvals. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Charter at (916) 341-5652 or Bob Trommer at (916) 341-5684.

Sincerely,

—Allan Patton, Program Manager

UST Cleanup Fund

California Environmental Protection Agency